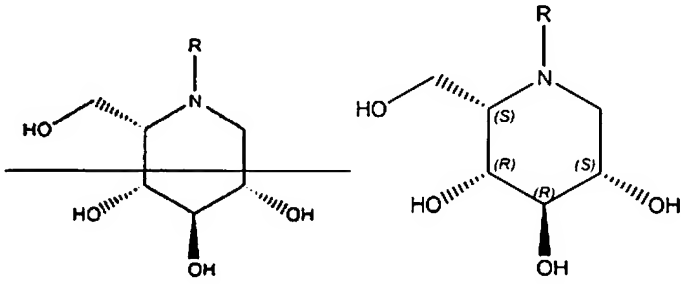
AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A compound of formula (I) in free, ~~or~~ pharmaceutically acceptable salt or C_{1-4}alkyl ester prodrug form:



wherein

R is $-C_{1-3}alkylAr^1$ where Ar^1 is phenyl;

wherein phenyl is substituted by one or more substituents selected from CN, $CON(R^1)_2$, SO_nR^2, $SO_2N(R^1)_2$, $N(R^5)_2$, $N(R^1)COR_2$, $N(R^1)SO_nR^2$, $C_{0-6}alkylAr^2$, $C_{2-6}alkenylAr^2$ and $C_{3-6}alkynylAr^2$ wherein one or more of the $-CH_2-$ groups of the alkyl chain may be replaced with a heteroatom selected from O, S and NR^3, provided that when the heteroatom is O, at least two $-CH_2-$ groups separate it from any additional O atom in the alkyl chain; or two adjacent substituents on the Ar^1 phenyl may together form a fused 5- or 6-membered saturated or unsaturated ring wherein the ring optionally contains 1 or 2 heteroatoms selected from O, S and NR^4 and is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from, an oxo group, $C_{1-6}alkyl$ and $C_{0-3}alkylAr^4$;

and the Ar^1 phenyl is optionally substituted by one or more additional substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CF_3, OCF_3, OR^3 and $C_{1-6}alkyl$:

R^1 is H, $C_{1-6}alkyl$ optionally substituted by OH, Ar^3, or C_{1-6} $alkylAr^3$, or the group $N(R^1)_2$ may form a 5- to 10-membered heterocyclic group optionally containing one or more additional

heteroatoms selected from O, S and NR^3 and is optionally substituted by an oxo group;
R^2 is C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted by OH, Ar^3, or C_{1-6}alkylAr^3;
R^3 is H, or C_{1-6}alkyl;
R^4 is H, C_{1-6}alkyl or C_{0-3}alkylAr^4;
R^5 is H, C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted by OH, Ar^3, or C_{1-6}alkylAr^3, or the group $N(R^5)_2$ may form a 5- to 10-membered heterocyclic group optionally containing one or more additional heteroatoms selected from O, S and NR^3 and is optionally substituted by an oxo group;
Ar^2 and Ar^3 are independently phenyl or a 5- to 10-membered heteroaryl group containing up to 3 heteroatoms selected from O, S and NR^3, which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CN, CF_3, OCF_3, OR^3 and C_{1-6} alkyl;
Ar^4 is phenyl or pyridyl either of which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CN, CF_3, OCF_3, OR^3 and C_{1-6} alkyl; and
n =0, 1 or 2.

2. (Previously presented) The compound as defined in claim 1 wherein R is C_1alkylAr^1.

3. (Previously presented) The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein Ar^1 is phenyl, wherein phenyl is substituted as defined in claim 1.

4. (Previously presented) The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein Ar^1 is phenyl, wherein phenyl is substituted by one or more substituents selected from CN, $CON(R^1)_2$, $N(R^5)_2$ and C_{0-6} alkylAr^2 wherein one or more of the $-CH_2-$ groups of the alkyl chain may be replaced with a heteroatom selected from O, S and NR^3, provided that when the heteroatom is O, at least two $-CH_2-$ groups separate it from any additional O atom in the alkyl chain, or two adjacent substituents on the Ar^1 phenyl may together form a fused 5- or 6-membered saturated or unsaturated ring wherein the ring optionally contains 1 or 2 heteroatoms selected from O and NR^4 and is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from, an oxo group, C_{1-6}alkyl and C_{0-3}alkylAr^4, and the Ar^1 phenyl is optionally substituted by one or more additional substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CF_3, OCF_3, OR^3 and C_{1-6}alkyl.

5. (Previously presented) The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein Ar^1 is phenyl, wherein phenyl is substituted by one or more substituents selected from CN, $CON(R^1)_2$, $N(R^5)_2$ and $C_{0-6}alkylAr^2$ wherein one or more of the $-CH_2-$ groups of the alkyl chain may be replaced with O, provided that at least two- CH_2- groups separate it from any additional O atom introduced into the alkyl chain and the Ar^1 phenyl is optionally substituted by one or more additional substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CF_3, OCF_3, OR^3 and $C_{1-6}alkyl$.

6. (Previously presented) The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein Ar^2 is phenyl which is optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CN, CF_3, OCF_3, OR^3 and $C_{1-6}alkyl$.

7. (Previously presented) The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R^1 is H, $C_{1-6}alkyl$ or $C_{1-6}alkylAr^3$.

8. (Previously presented) The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R^2 is Ar^3 or $C_{1-6}alkylAr^3$.

9. (Previously presented) The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein Ar^3 is phenyl which may be optionally substituted by one or more substituents selected from F, Cl, Br, CN, CF_3, OCF_3, OR^3 and $C_{1-6}alkyl$.

10. (Previously presented) The compound as defined in claim 1, wherein R^5 is $C_{1-6}alkyl$.

11. (Currently amended) A compound selected from

3,4,5-Piperidinetriol, 2-(hydroxymethyl)-1 [[2-methoxy-4-(phenylmethoxy)phenyl]methyl], (2S,3R,4R,5S);

3,4,5-Piperidinetriol, 1-[[2-chloro-4-(dimethylamino)phenyl]methyl]-2-(hydroxymethyl)-,

(2S,3R,4R,5S);

3,4,5-Piperidinetriol, 1-[(3-cyano-4-dimethylamino-2-fluorophenyl)methyl]-2(hydroxymethyl)-, (2S,3R,4R,5S);

3,4,5-Piperidinetriol, 1-[[(4-acetylamino)phenyl]methyl]-2-(hydroxymethyl), (2S,3R,4R,5S);

3,4,5-Piperidinetriol, 1-[(2,3-dihydrobenzofuran-5-yl)methyl]-2-(hydroxymethyl)-, (2S,3R,4R,5S);

Benzamide, N-[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]-4-[[2S,3R,4R,5S)-3,4,5-trihydroxy-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-piperidinyl]methyl]-;

Benzamide, N-[1-phenylethyl]-4-[[(2S,3R,4R,5S)-3,4,5-trihydroxy-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-piperidinyl]-methyl]-;

Benzamide, N-[1-(R)-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-[[2S,3R,4R,5S)-3,4,5-trihydroxy-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-piperidinyl]methyl]-;

3,4,5-Piperidinetriol, 2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-[[3-(phenylmethoxy)phenyl]methyl]-, (2S,3R,4R,5S);

3,4,5-Piperidinetriol, 2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-[[3-chloro-4-(phenylmethoxy)phenyl]methyl]-, (2S,3R,4R,5S);

3,4,5-Piperidinetriol, 2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-[[4-(phenylmethoxy)phenyl]methyl]-, (2S,3R,4R,5S);

3,4,5-Piperidinetriol, 2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-[[(4-dibutylamino)phenyl]methyl]-, (2S,3R,4R,5S);

3,4,5-Piperidinetriol, 1-[(*4-trans*-styrylphenyl)methyl]-2-(hydroxymethyl)-, (2S,3R,4R,5S);

Quinoline, 1-[4-[(2S,3R,4R,5S)-3,4,5-trihydroxy-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-piperidinyl]methyl]-benzoyl-1,2,3,4-tetrahydro-;

Benzamide, N-[phenylmethyl]-4-[[(2S,3R,4R,5S)-3,4,5-trihydroxy-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-piperidinyl]-methyl]-;

3,4,5-Piperidinetriol, 2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-(quinolin-6-yl)methyl-, (2S,3R,4R,5S);

3,4,5-Piperidinetriol, 1-[(3-cyano-4-(dimethylamino)phenyl)methyl)-2-(hydroxymethyl)-, (2S,3R,4R,5S);

3,4,5-Piperidinetriol, 2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-[(3-cyano-4-(diethylamino)-2-fluorophenyl)-methyl]-,(2S,3R,4R,5S);

3,4,5-Piperidinetriol, 2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-[(4-phenoxyphenyl)methyl)]-, (2S,3R,4R,5S);

3,4,5 -Piperidinetriol, 1-[(3,4-ethylenedioxyphenyl)methyl]-2-(hydroxymethyl)-, (2S,3R,4R,5S);

Benzamide, N-[4-[[(2S,3R,4R,5S)-3,4,5-trihydroxy-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-piperidiny1]-methyl]phenyl]-;

Benzenesulfonamide, N-[4-[[(2S,3R,4R,5S)-3,4,5-trihydroxy-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-piperidinyl]methyl]-phenyl]-;

3,4,5-Piperidinetriol, 2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-[[4-(2-pyridyl)phenyl]methyl]-, (S2,3R,4R,5S);

3,4,5-Piperidinetriol, 2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-[(2-phenyl-2*H*-1,4-benzoxazin-3(4H)-one-6-

yl)methyl]-, (2S,3R,4R,5S);

3,4,5-Piperidinetriol, 1-[[3,5-dimethyl-4-(phenylmethoxy)phenyl]methyl]-2-(hydroxylmethyl)-, (2S,3R,4R,5S);

3,4,5-Piperidinetriol, 1-[[3-cyano-4-[N-butyl-4-*N*-(2-hydroxyethyl)amino]phenyl]methyl]-2-(hydroxymethyl)-, (2S,3R,4R,5S);

Phenylacetamide, N-[4-[[(2S,3R,4R,5S)-3,4,5-trihydroxy-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-piperidinyl]methyl]phenyl]-;

3,4,5-Pipetidinetriol, 2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-[(2-hexyl-2*H*-1 ,4-benzoxazin-3(4H)-one-6-yl)methyl]-, (2S,3R,4R,5S);

Benzenesulfonamide, N-[1-(S)-(4-fluorophenyl)ethyl]-4-[[(2S,3R,4R,5S)-3,4,5-trihydroxy-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-piperidinyl]methyl]-;

[2-(S)-phenyl]propionamide, N-[4-[[(2S,3R,4R,5S)-3,4,5-trihydroxy-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-piperidinyl]methyl]phenyl]-;

3,4,5-Piperidinetriol, 2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-[[2-propyl-2*H*-l,4-benzoxazin-3(4H)-one-6-yl]methyl]-, (2S,3R,4R,5S);

[2-(R)-phenyl]propionamide, N-[4-[[(2S,3R,4R,5S)-3,4,5-trihydroxy-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-piperidinyl]methyl]phenyl]-;

Benzamide, N-[1-(S)-phenylethyl]-4-[[(2S,3R,4R,5S)-3,4,5-trihydroxy-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-piperidinyl]methyl]-;

Benzamide, N-[l-(R)-phenylethyl]-4-[[(2S,3R,4R,5S)-3,4,5-trihydroxy-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-piperidinyl]methyl]-;

Benzamide, N-[(4-fluorophenyl)methyl]-N-methyl-4-[[(2S,3R,4R,5S)-3,4,5-trihydroxy-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-piperidinyl]methyl]-;

Benzamide, N-hexyl-4-[[(2S,3R,4R,5S)-3,4,5-trihydroxy-2-(hydroxymethyl)-1-piperidinyl]methyl]-;

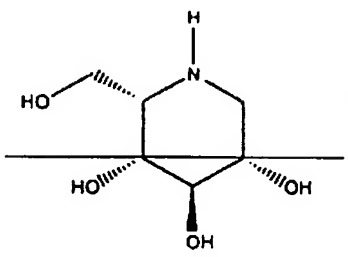
in free, pharmaceutically acceptable salt or C_{1-4}alkyl ester prodrug form.

12. (Canceled).

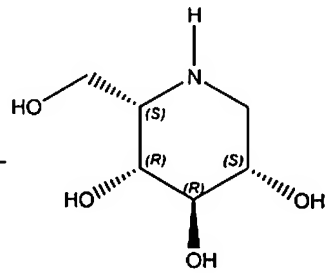
13. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, excipients and/or diluents.

14. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, the process comprising:

a) reductive amination of an aldehyde of formula R^5CHO wherein R^5 is $C_{0-2}alkylAr^1$ where Ar^1 is as defined in claim 1, with a compound of formula (II):



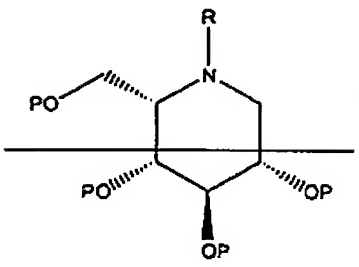
(II)



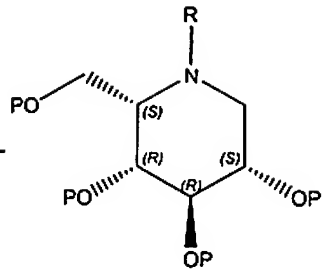
(I)

or

b) deprotection of a compound of formula (III):



(III)



(III)

wherein R is as defined in claim 1, and P, which may be the same or different, are hydroxy protecting groups.

15-30. (Cancelled)